

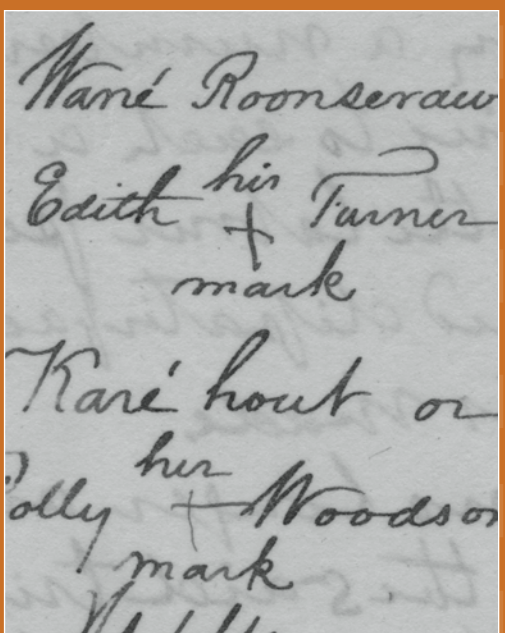
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**Frances Culpeper Stephens  
Berkeley Ludwell**  
(bap. 1634–ca. 1695)  
James City County  
Political Leader

As a leader of the Green Spring faction, Frances Culpeper Stephens Berkeley Ludwell influenced the politics of seventeenth-century Virginia.

2



**Edith Turner (Wané Roonseraw)**  
(ca. 1754–1838)  
Southampton County  
Nottoway (Cheroenhaka) Chief

Edith Turner, chief of the Nottoway, successfully navigated nineteenth-century Nottoway and Anglo-American societies while she strove to keep the tribe's children on the reservation.

3



**Lucy Goode Brooks**  
(1818–1900)  
Richmond  
Civic Leader

Having experienced as a slave the devastation of separated families, Lucy Goode Brooks founded the Friends' Asylum for Colored Orphans.

4



**Providencia Velazquez Gonzalez**  
(1917– )  
Dale City  
Community Activist

By striving to improve the lives of those around her, Providencia "Provi" Velazquez Gonzalez serves as an example to her community.

# VIRGINIA WOMEN in HISTORY 2008

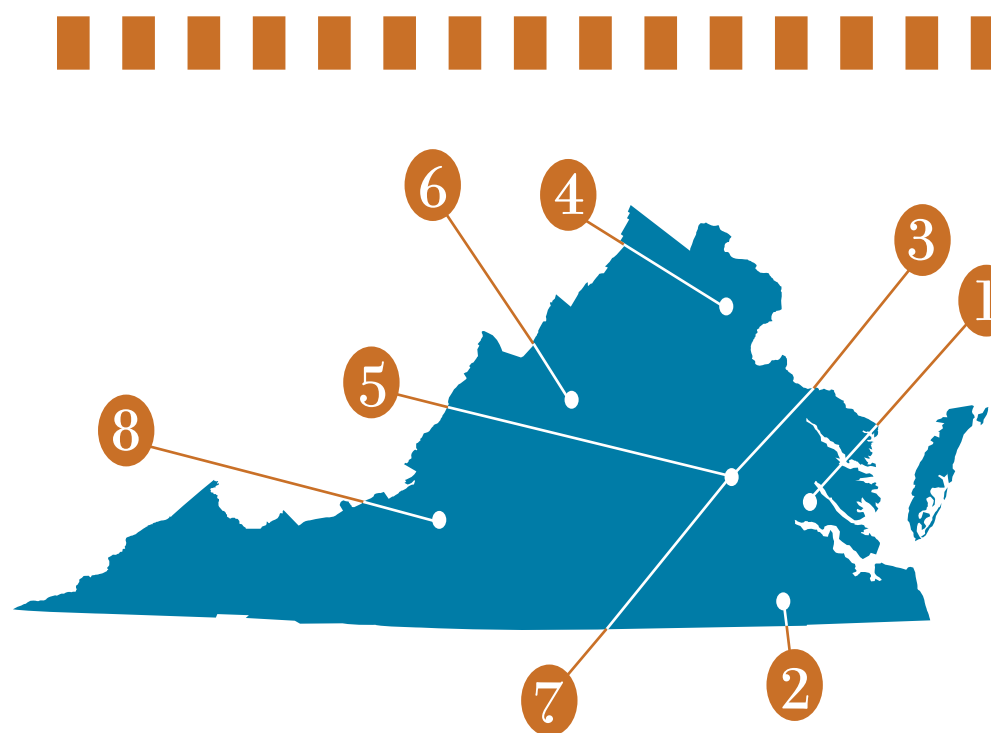
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**Dominion**



1. Frances Culpeper Stephens Berkeley Ludwell
2. Edith Turner (Wané Roonseraw)
3. Lucy Goode Brooks
4. Providencia Velazquez Gonzalez
5. Isabel Wood Rogers
6. Patricia Buckley Moss
7. Elizabeth Bermingham Lacy
8. Sharyn McCrumb



[www.lva.virginia.gov/vw2008/](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/vw2008/)

**Isabel Wood Rogers**  
(1924–2007)  
Richmond  
Presbyterian Educator

As an educator and author, Isabel Wood Rogers advocated that Christians take an active and responsible interest in the secular world.

**Patricia Buckley Moss**  
(1933– )  
Waynesboro  
Artist and Philanthropist

Patricia Buckley Moss uses the considerable commercial success she has earned as an artist to aid child-related charities and promote the use of the arts to help children with learning disabilities succeed in school and in life.

**Elizabeth Bermingham Lacy**  
(1945– )  
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The first woman to serve on the State Corporation Commission and on the Supreme Court of Virginia, Elizabeth Bermingham Lacy opened doors for Virginia women in the legal profession.

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(1948– )  
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1. **Frances Culpeper Stephens Berkeley Ludwell**  
(bap. 1634—ca. 1695), James City County, political leader

As a leader of the Green Spring faction, Frances Culpeper Stephens Berkeley Ludwell influenced the politics of seventeenth-century Virginia.

Frances Culpeper Stephens Berkeley Ludwell (baptized May 27, 1634—ca. 1695) married three colonial governors and certainly influenced each of them, but her leadership of the Green Spring faction, a prominent political group, was her greatest position of power. The group effectively controlled the Virginia government for about two years late in the 1670s.

As the widow of Samuel Stephens, governor of the Albemarle settlement in present-day North Carolina, Frances Culpeper Stephens inherited a Warwick County plantation, as stipulated in a premarital agreement. In an early show of independence, she managed the estate herself instead of turning it over to a male relative, as was the custom at that time. During her marriage to Virginia governor Sir William Berkeley, Lady Berkeley, as she was known for the rest of her life, was her husband's confidante and

2. **Edith Turner (Wané Roonseraw)**  
(ca. 1754–1838), Southampton County, Nottoway (Cheroenhaka) chief

Edith Turner, chief of the Nottoway, successfully navigated nineteenth-century Nottoway and Anglo-American societies while she strove to keep the tribe's children on the reservation.

In 1821 Edith Turner (ca. 1754–February or March 1838), also known as Edy Turner (or by her Nottoway personal name, Wané Roonseraw), petitioned the Virginia General Assembly as chief of the Nottoway (Cheroenhaka). Turner had taken part in land transactions since 1794, but as chief she led a push to divide the reservation's land among the individual Indians, perhaps in an attempt to convince more Nottoway to adopt white farming practices. Early in the nineteenth century most of the Indians on the Nottoway reservation refused to participate in intensive farming. Forced to sell reservation land to pay debts, the Nottoway saw their landholdings decrease, making their traditional ways of life increasingly difficult. Turner transcended these problems to own a farm, where she prospered.

Turner's level of self-sufficiency was considerable for a woman in her time and place, but her compassion for the Nottoway

3. **Lucy Goode Brooks**  
(1818–1900), Richmond, civic leader

Having experienced as a slave the devastation of separated families, Lucy Goode Brooks founded the Friends' Asylum for Colored Orphans.

In 1839, while a slave, Lucy Goode (September 13, 1818–October 7, 1900) obtained permission from her master to marry and live with Albert Royal Brooks, another Richmond slave. The Brookses had seven children living in 1858 when Lucy Brooks and her three youngest children were sold to Daniel Von Groning. He allowed Albert Brooks, who operated a livery stable and eating house, to pay him in installments over four years for their freedom. In order to keep the rest of her family together Lucy Brooks set out for Richmond's business district and there found three local men to buy her older sons, who became free in 1865 when Union troops occupied Richmond. A fourth buyer purchased Brooks's eldest daughter, but he broke his pledge to keep her in Richmond and sold the girl to a buyer in Tennessee.

After Emancipation, former slaves flocked to Richmond seeking work and looking for missing family members. Having lost a

4. **Providencia Velazques Gonzalez**  
(1917– ), Dale City, community activist

By striving to improve the lives of those around her, Providencia "Provi" Velazquez Gonzalez serves as an example to her community.

As a young girl in Puerto Rico, Providencia "Provi" Velazquez Gonzalez (born May 14, 1917) often went without lunch so that she could share her food with others less fortunate. That same compassion defines her life today.

Gonzalez moved to New York in 1934 in order to continue nursing studies. On a visit to her former island home, she became dismayed at the lack of resources doctors had to treat cancer patients. After returning to New York, she organized a Latino marathon that raised \$20,000 for Corazones Contra El Cancer (Hearts against Cancer), which donated the funds to a hospital in Puerto Rico for oncology research and treatment.

In New York, Gonzalez coordinated fashion shows for a sportswear company and also worked part-time as a news anchor and weather reporter for a Spanish-language radio station. In 1972 she moved to Virginia and settled in Dale City, where from 1993 until 2005 she ran the local farmers market. An active member of Holy

adviser. During Bacon's Rebellion, when colonists fearful of Indian attack rebelled against the governor, Lady Berkeley traveled to England and petitioned the king in Sir William Berkeley's behalf.

Remaining fiercely loyal to her husband and his policies, Berkeley rallied a group of the governor's supporters after his death in 1677. Meeting near Jamestown at the Green Spring manor, which Berkeley had inherited from her husband, the faction maneuvered against Governor Berkeley's replacement, Herbert Jeffreys, and the English attempts to curb colonial self-determination. After Governor Thomas Culpeper's arrival in Virginia in 1680, Berkeley slowly withdrew from overt politicking. About the same time, she married Philip Ludwell (later deputy governor of North Carolina and South Carolina). She retained her reputation as an intelligent and influential Virginian until her death about 1695.

children makes her an outstanding figure. Records from 1808 show her acting as foster mother for two Nottoway children, and she successfully urged the white trustees of the tribe to return four other Indian children to the reservation. At age seventy-six she still looked after at least two children in her home. Turner most likely led the struggle to keep tribal children from being schooled or apprenticed off the reservation. As one of the last speakers of the Nottoway language and with a knowledge of their legends, Turner instructed the children in the traditions of the tribe as well as in how to survive in white-controlled society. In 1820 she provided surveyor John Wood with a Nottoway vocabulary, allowing scholars a peek at the Iroquoian language. The only Nottoway of her time to write a will, Turner died in Southampton County in 1838 at about eighty-four years of age.

daughter to the slave trade, Brooks had a special concern for the plight of parentless children. A leader of the Ladies Sewing Circle for Charitable Work, she convinced the group to support a home for orphans. She also obtained aid from the local Cedar Creek Meeting of the Society of Friends and won the backing of several black churches.

The orphanage building was completed in 1871 in Richmond's Jackson Ward neighborhood, and the General Assembly incorporated the Friends' Asylum for Colored Orphans in March 1872. After operating until 1932, the orphanage became a child placement agency working primarily with foster families. Today the renamed Friends Association for Children operates three family support centers, one on the site of the original orphanage building. The Lucy Brooks Foundation, created in 1984 to raise funds for the association, was named in honor of its founder.

Family Catholic Church, Gonzalez introduced the custom of celebrating Epiphany with a children's festival, as has traditionally been done in Puerto Rico. In addition to volunteering as a translator for those requiring help in court or with social services, she has assisted needy families in navigating through governmental red tape and also helped raise money to cover the catastrophic medical expenses of the uninsured.

Gonzalez has served on the Prince William County Commission on Aging and also on a task force that led to the creation of the county Human Rights Commission. Among other awards, she has been the Dale City Citizen of the Year and in 2006 received the Prince William County Human Rights Award for her humanitarian work and advocacy. Her example led the girls of Pauline Stoneburner's fourth-grade class at Belmont Elementary School in Woodbridge to nominate Gonzalez for statewide recognition as one of the 2008 Virginia Women in History.

Women have played an integral part in Virginia from its beginnings, yet their contributions have often been overlooked in the history books. Until well into the twentieth century, written histories tended to focus on the historically male-dominated fields of government and politics, the military, and large-scale landholding to the virtual exclusion of all other venues of leadership or achievement. They ignored women's critical roles as wives, mothers, educators, nurses, lay leaders, farmers, artists, writers, reformers, pioneers, business leaders, laborers, and community builders.

Today, we recognize and celebrate women's accomplishments in all walks of life, particularly in March, which Congress has designated as National Women's History Month. The Library of Virginia presents the 2008 Virginia Women in History poster to honor eight women—past and present—who have made important contributions to Virginia, the nation, and the world. We encourage you to learn more about these fascinating women who saw things differently from their contemporaries, developed new approaches to old problems, strove for excellence based on the courage of their convictions, and initiated changes in Virginia and the United States that continue to affect our lives today.

Learn more about Virginia women in the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* (Richmond: Library of Virginia, 1998— ) and on the Library of Virginia's Web site at [www.lva.virginia.gov/](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/). Instructional materials and classroom activities are available at [www.lva.virginia.gov/vw2008/](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/vw2008/).

# virginia women in HISTORY 2008

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Dominion

5. **Isabel Wood Rogers**  
(1924–2007), Richmond, Presbyterian educator

As an educator and author, Isabel Wood Rogers advocated that Christians take an active and responsible interest in the secular world.

Born in Tallahassee, Florida, Isabel Wood Rogers (August 26, 1924–March 18, 2007) was a leader in expanding the role of women in the Presbyterian Church. After graduating from Florida State College for Women (later Florida State University), she received a master's degree in political science from the University of Virginia and then a Ph.D. in theology and ethics from Duke University. She also received a master's degree from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (PSCE) in Richmond. Rogers served Georgia State College for Women from 1949 to 1961, first as chaplain and then as director of religious affairs, before returning to Richmond to teach applied Christianity at PSCE (later Union Theological Seminary–PSCE) until her retirement in 1998. She wrote five books that explored how Christians live in the modern world.

6. **Patricia Buckley Moss**  
(1933– ), Waynesboro, artist and philanthropist

Patricia Buckley Moss uses the considerable commercial success she has earned as an artist to aid child-related charities and promote the use of the arts to help children with learning disabilities succeed in school and in life.

Even though Patricia Buckley Moss (born May 20, 1933) was born in New York City and now divides her time between homes in Florida and Virginia, much of her art is rooted in the Shenandoah Valley. The rural scenery, along with the serenity, work ethos, and traditional pursuits of the Amish and Mennonite communities, had a profound effect on Moss when she moved to Waynesboro with her family in 1964. The modest lifestyle of the Valley inhabitants soon began to appear in her paintings and drawings.

Moss has dyslexia, which made grade school a struggle for her. Later, in high school, her artistic abilities were recognized and nourished, and in 1951 she received a scholarship to New York's Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. By late in the 1960s Moss began marketing her work. The P. Buckley Moss

7. **Elizabeth Bermingham Lacy**  
(1945– ), Richmond, judge

The first woman to serve on the State Corporation Commission and on the Supreme Court of Virginia, Elizabeth Bermingham Lacy opened doors for Virginia women in the legal profession.

A pioneer in the legal profession in Virginia, Elizabeth Bermingham Lacy (born January 12, 1945) holds the distinction of being the first female deputy attorney general in the state, the first female judge on the State Corporation Commission, and the first woman to sit on the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Born in South Carolina, Lacy grew up in Wisconsin and earned a law degree at the University of Texas. In 1982 she began work in the Virginia attorney general's office, where she supervised all civil litigation. She received a Master of Laws degree from the University of Virginia in 1992.

Lacy served on the Virginia State Corporation Commission, which regulates utilities and other public service businesses, for almost four years (April 1985–December 1988). Governor Gerald L. Baliles appointed her to the Supreme Court of Virginia

8. **Sharyn McCrumb**  
(1948– ), Roanoke County, writer

The award-winning novels of Sharyn Elaine Arwood McCrumb celebrate the richness and variety of Appalachian culture.

Sharyn Elaine Arwood McCrumb (born February 26, 1948) celebrates the history and folklore of Appalachia through her books, many of which appear regularly on the New York Times Best-Sellers list. Perhaps best known for her Elizabeth McPherson and Ballard series, McCrumb seeks to weave together past and present to change the popular perception of Appalachia. Descended from circuit preachers, teachers, and storytellers, she learned the myths and legends of that region. In her novels, McCrumb presents the richness and variety of Appalachian culture and explores the continuing effect of the past on the present. Most recently she has published two novels on NASCAR.

Born in Wilmington, North Carolina, McCrumb received her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a graduate degree in English from Virginia Tech. She has garnered numerous awards for her writing, including the 1997 Outstanding Contribution to Appalachian Literature from the

Known to her colleagues and students as Dr. Izzie, Rogers was an energetic, outstanding teacher who encouraged her students and colleagues to pursue the quest for justice, including the ethical treatment of all people and full participation of women in the church and in society. A confirmed environmentalist, she advocated responsible stewardship of the earth. In 1987 Rogers was elected moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), its highest elected office. Her role as moderator, she believed, was to encourage questions, to get people "to think for themselves, to forge their own faith." She received honorary degrees from several colleges as well as awards for her work as an educator and in the Presbyterian Church. In 1986 the YWCA recognized her as one of "Richmond's Outstanding Women."

Museum opened in Waynesboro in 1989, and today galleries nationwide carry her works.

Moss has been generous with her earnings and focused on child-related charities. In 1985 she helped famine-struck African countries through a Mennonite African relief fund. Since then her generosity has expanded, especially in her efforts to help children with learning disabilities. Collectors of Moss's works established the P. Buckley Moss Society in 1987 to promote her charitable ideals, and the P. Buckley Moss Foundation for Children's Education, founded in 1995, supports the arts in educational programs, with a focus on children with special needs. In 1988 journalist Charles Kuralt described Moss as "The People's Artist," a compliment she considers the greatest that could be bestowed on her.

In December 1988, Lacy was elected by the General Assembly to twelve-year terms on the court in 1989 and again in 2001. As a justice, Lacy earned a reputation for her no-nonsense approach. She advised lawyers to submit their briefs in English, not legalese, and wrote hundreds of opinions on a variety of subjects.

Lacy's skill and determination have undoubtedly opened doors for women in what has historically been a male-dominated profession. At the time of her retirement from the court in mid-August 2007 to take senior status, three of Virginia's seven Supreme Court justices were women, as was the immediate past-president of the Virginia State Bar. "Seeing a woman as a judge gives any young woman the almost subconscious belief or idea that she can do it," Lacy has said. "To the extent that my role has contributed to that, that's a really good thing."

Appalachian Writers Association. Shepherd College honored her with its inaugural Appalachian Heritage Writers Award in 1999, and in 2003 she received the Wilma Dykeman Award for Regional Historical Literature from the East Tennessee Historical Society.

Other awards include the 1988 Edgar Award for Best Paperback Original, for the satirical mystery novel *Bimbos of the Death Sun*, and successive Agatha Awards for best mystery novel in 1994 and 1995, for *She Walks These Hills* and *If I'd Killed Him When I Met Him*. The Appalachian Writers Association named *Lovely in Her Bones* and *The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter* Best Appalachian Novel in 1985 and 1992, respectively.

McCrumb likens her books to Appalachian quilts consisting of "brightly colored scraps of legends, ballads, fragments of rural life, and local tragedy" that she pieces together to make a story.



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